



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

### ***TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE***

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Testimony Supporting Raised Senate Bill No. 1045

AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL PLANS OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

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Senator Osten, Representative Miller and distinguished members of the Planning and Development Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of Raised Senate Bill No. 1045, An Act Concerning Municipal Plans of Conservation and Development.

As you know, state statutes have separate requirements for municipal, regional and state plans of conservation and development (POCDs). The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) prepares revisions to the State POCD on a recurring five-year schedule, whereas Regional Councils of Governments (RCOGs) and municipalities prepare their POCDs at least once every ten years. To promote greater compatibility between state, regional and municipal plans, Public Act 10-138 required the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to prepare the 2013-2018 State POCD, and future revisions, through a new process known as "cross-acceptance".

I believe that the provisions of Raised Senate Bill No. 1045 will strengthen the cross-acceptance process, since it would result in:

- 1) More robust and timely municipal POCDs; and
- 2) Improved coordination between municipal land use commissions and the local or regional Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA).

The first provision removes language pertaining to blanket deferrals for certain municipal POCDs, since the deferrals become obsolete on July 1, 2015. Going forward, any municipality that is unable to adopt a POCD within the required 10-year timeframe must formally request and receive a waiver from the OPM Secretary in order to remain eligible for discretionary state funding. OPM has already provided such waivers to a

few municipalities that recently were unable to meet their 10-year deadline, since they were able to demonstrate reasonable progress towards adopting their POCDs in the near future.

With regard to the second provision, please note that, in its endorsement of the 2013-2018 State POCD, the Continuing Legislative Committee on State Planning and Development stated that “no state agency will use the Locational Guide Map, by itself, to determine the consistency of a proposed state action with the State Plan.” This is particularly important because this bill would enable Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) staff to determine the consistency of their Clean Water Fund projects by relying on the municipal POCD, which would simply reflect the timing and extent of WPCA-planned sewer extensions and/or sewer avoidance areas, based on local land use goals and objectives.

I would like to again thank the committee for the opportunity to present this testimony. As always, my staff and I are available to meet with you to discuss any questions you may have regarding this subject.